

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Rose Hill  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number State Road 1442  not for publication  
city, town Grassy Creek  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Granville code 077 zip code 27507

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>8</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>3</u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>9</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic and Architectural Resources of Granville  
County, North Carolina

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

William S. Fair Jr.  
Signature of certifying official  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

1-29-88  
Date

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling  
Agriculture/Subsistence  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic-single dwelling  
Agriculture/Subsistence  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof metal  
other wood  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

Stands of timber, lapped at their northeastern edge by the waters of the John H. Kerr Reservoir, and a paved road frame the fields and pastures amidst which Rose Hill, Granville County's only antebellum brick dwelling, stands. Little changed through the years and maintained in exceptional condition, the double-pile, two-story tall, Greek Revival style, former plantation seat is approached down a cedar-lined lane cut through spacious, well-groomed lawns. Outbuildings from the bright leaf tobacco era are arrayed to its north side and rear. The large brick dwelling, set in its striking, gracious location, would have been at home in Virginia, a state appropriately visible from its expansive grounds.

Rose Hill is an appropriate name for the rich red brick, hip roofed, Greek Revival style dwelling. Three symmetrically placed bays cross its southern front and northern rear elevations, while its side elevations are each marked by two bays. The entries and six-over-six windows set into its thick, five-course, common bond walls are surmounted by shallow, triangular pediments. Circles and triangles of leaded glass, much of which is original, fill the sidelights and transom of the front entry. They provide the only relief in the otherwise strict symmetry of the dwelling's Greek Revival finish. The present Colonial Revival style front porch, supported by columns, was probably erected late in the nineteenth or early in the twentieth century, when the main entrance was shifted from the south to the north to accommodate a change in the state maintained road. The small columned side porch was also probably erected around the same time. A small, two-story, brick ell and a glass enclosed atrium at the rear were added by the present owners, who acquired and began their restoration of the property in the late 1950s.

Inside, the house's center hallway and back to back, flanking rooms are finished with similar Greek Revival style motifs, both downstairs and above. The surrounds on both floors are fluted with bull's-eye cornerblocks. All of the mantels but the crosssetted one in the west parlor are simply finished in post and lintel fashion. The six-panel doors downstairs and the two-panel doors above have matching soffits. The stairs are paneled beneath and have scalloped stair ends and an octagonal handrail, a shape favored at antebellum properties in the county. Physical evidence during interior work indicates that their run was reversed, probably when the front entrance of the house was shifted. The first and second floors were little touched over

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the years, other than the shifting of the stair. They were in disrepair before the present owners, who refinished the once dirt-floored, brick-walled basement, restored them.

Outbuildings on the property, set to the rear of the house ["A" on attached sketch map] and off of its north side across a groomed lawn, a row of trees and a farm lane, date from its tenure as a bright leaf tobacco farm. Those to the house's rear - a frame garage [D] and two frame corn cribs [B and C] - were built in the early twentieth century and are no longer contributing because their character has been altered. The other outbuildings contribute to the property's evocation of the bright leaf era. They include four log tobacco barns [H, I, J and K] and a log striphouse [F], and two frame buildings - a packhouse [G] and former tenant house [E]. All were raised around the turn of the century.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Agriculture

Period of Significance

circa 1834- 1937

Significant Dates

circa 1834

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

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Not only is Rose Hill the sole surviving plantation era brick dwelling in Granville County, but it is also a handsomely finished, well-maintained and little altered example of the Greek Revival style. (See associated Property Type 2 - Greek Revival and Romantic Style Dwellings) Set on a large estate with carefully groomed lawns, expanses of fields and pastures, and a lake to its rear, it retains the gracious atmosphere it must have had during the antebellum years. The brick walls and finish of the former plantation seat are significant in both material and design. Outside, the dwelling's brick enframed openings are crowned with triangular pediments and its entry is enframed by round and triangular leaded glass elements unique in local Greek Revival style properties. Inside, all its rooms and hallways, downstairs and above, retain a full compliment of Greek Revival style decorative motifs, including post and lintel and crosssetted mantels, fluted and bull's-eye cornerblock surrounds and two- and six-panel doors. Built in sight of Virginia, in a material and two-room deep form much more commonly found in that state, it represents the county's close connections with its northern neighbor, as well as the way of life of a wealthy, local, plantation era planter. (See associated Historic Context 1 - The Plantation Era in Granville County, 1746-1865) Its significance also extends beyond the Civil War. Coupled with its many surviving tobacco related outbuildings, including a turn of the century tenant house, it is significant as the center of a bright leaf era tobacco farm. (See associated Historic Context 2 - Bright Leaf Tobacco and Rural Granville County, 1866-1937, and associated Property Type 6 - Outbuildings) The property has been in use as a traditional bright leaf tobacco farm within the past 50 years; its period of significance has been assigned a closing date of 1937, however, because it has not achieved exceptional importance within the past half century.

The slaves of John Joseph Speed (1803-1870) and Ann Strachan Jones (1807-1851) - his first wife - made the bricks for the dwelling on the property and erected it in 1834, according to Speed family descendants. [1] A deed made by Henry Young to a John S. Speed of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, for 808 acres of land in 1830 [Deed Book 4, Page 334] is probably the original deed for the property. Although the middle initial is "S" rather than "J" on the deed, the location of the land, the similarity of names, the lack of other deeds to Speed during the decade and the fact that he came to Granville from Mecklenburg County suggest that it is the deed for the property. (In a deed to John J.

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Speed [Deed Book 15, Page 354] dated 1848 he was referred to as John S. Speed in the index and in the deed as well, until the S was inked over and converted to a J.) If the dwelling was indeed raised in 1834, it is the oldest example of the Greek Revival style in the county. This early appearance of the style would not be surprising, for the house was connected to Virginia through its size, material and, of course, Speed. And numerous antebellum houses standing across the Virginia line in Mecklenburg and Halifax counties exhibit far earlier connections with the Greek Revival style than those surviving in Granville County. The house and farm remained in the family until John Joseph's son, John S. Speed, sold his part interest in it in 1905 [Deed Book 58, Page 597]. In 1932 it was purchased by David T. Winston, one of northern Granville County's larger landowners, as his residence [Deed Book 93, Page 132]. The dwelling and farm were subsequently purchased by his grandson, J. Pratt Winston, in 1959 [Deed Book 150, Page 298]. He has restored the interior and added a small two-story addition and glass-walled atrium at the rear.

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[1] Interview with family descendant, Tom Speed, October, 1986

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Granville County Deeds. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, N.C.

Interview with Tom Speed, Family descendant, October, 1986.

United States Manuscript Censuses. Microfilm located at Richard H. Thornton Public Library, Oxford, N.C.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property approximately 50 acres

UTM References

A 

Zone	Easting					Northing													

B 

Zone	Easting					Northing														

C 

Zone	Easting					Northing														

D 

Zone	Easting					Northing														

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Marvin A. Brown/Architectural Historian & Patricia Esperon/Historian  
organization Granville County-Oxford Historic Survey date 8/18/87  
street & number P.O. Box 1556(State Historic Pres, Office) telephone 919-693-1491  
city or town Oxford state N.C. zip code 27565



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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	713820	4044750	I	17	714130	4044600
B	17	713770	4044280	J	17	714030	4044580
C	17	713870	4044140	K	17	714040	4044670
D	17	714280	4044080	L	17	713960	4044670
E	17	714250	4044330	M	17	713940	4044600
F	17	714170	4044260	N	17	713820	4044620
G	17	714110	4044290	O	17	713980	4044780
H	17	714200	4044500				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point A: 17 713820 4044750 on the USGS polygon, where the tree line meets the east side of State Road 1442, continuing south along the east side of State Road 1442 approximately 1200 feet to point B: 17 713770 4044280 on the polygon, where the east side of State Road 1442 meets the south side of the farm lane. Continuing east along the south side of the farm lane approximately 1200 feet to point D: 17 714280 4044080 on the polygon, where the south side of the farm lane meets the tree line. Continuing in a straight line northwest approximately 600 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point E: 17 714250 4044330 on the polygon, where the tree line meets the 320 foot elevation line (marked on the USGS polygon). Continuing along the 320 foot elevation line as it turns west and then north approximately 1600 feet to point L: 17 713960 4044670 on the polygon, where the 320 foot line meets the tree line. Continuing in a straight line southwest approximately 100 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point M: 17 713940 4044600 on the polygon, where the tree line turns west. Continuing in a straight line west approximately 350 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point N: 713820 4044620 on the polygon where the tree line turns

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northeast. Continuing in a straight line northeast approximately 300 feet, along the edge of the woods, to point O: 17 713980 4044780 on the polygon, where the tree line turns west. Continuing in a straight line west, along the edge of the woods, approximately 550 feet to the point of origin.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Approximately 50 acres that include the dwelling, outbuildings, and fields that have been a historic part of the property, maintain historic integrity and convey the property's historic setting are being nominated for the National Register. The remaining acreage has been excluded because it is not known with certainty to be historically associated with the property or because it is now woodland and is no longer used for farm production. In the latter case the land use has substantially changed so that it no longer contributes to the historic significance or historic integrity of the property as a plantation era or bright leaf era farm.

The western boundary from UTM points A to B includes the dwelling, and fields to its east and excludes property not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house to its west. The southern boundary from UTM points B to D includes the fields to its north and excludes property to its south not known with certainty to be historically associated with the house. The eastern boundary from UTM points D to E includes the fields to its west and excludes woodland to its east. The eastern boundary from UTM points E to L includes the fields to its west and excludes property not owned by the owner to its east. The northern boundary from UTM points L to M, M to N, N to O and O to A includes the dwelling, and outbuildings to its south and excludes woodland to its north.

**ROSE HILL**  
Granville County, NC

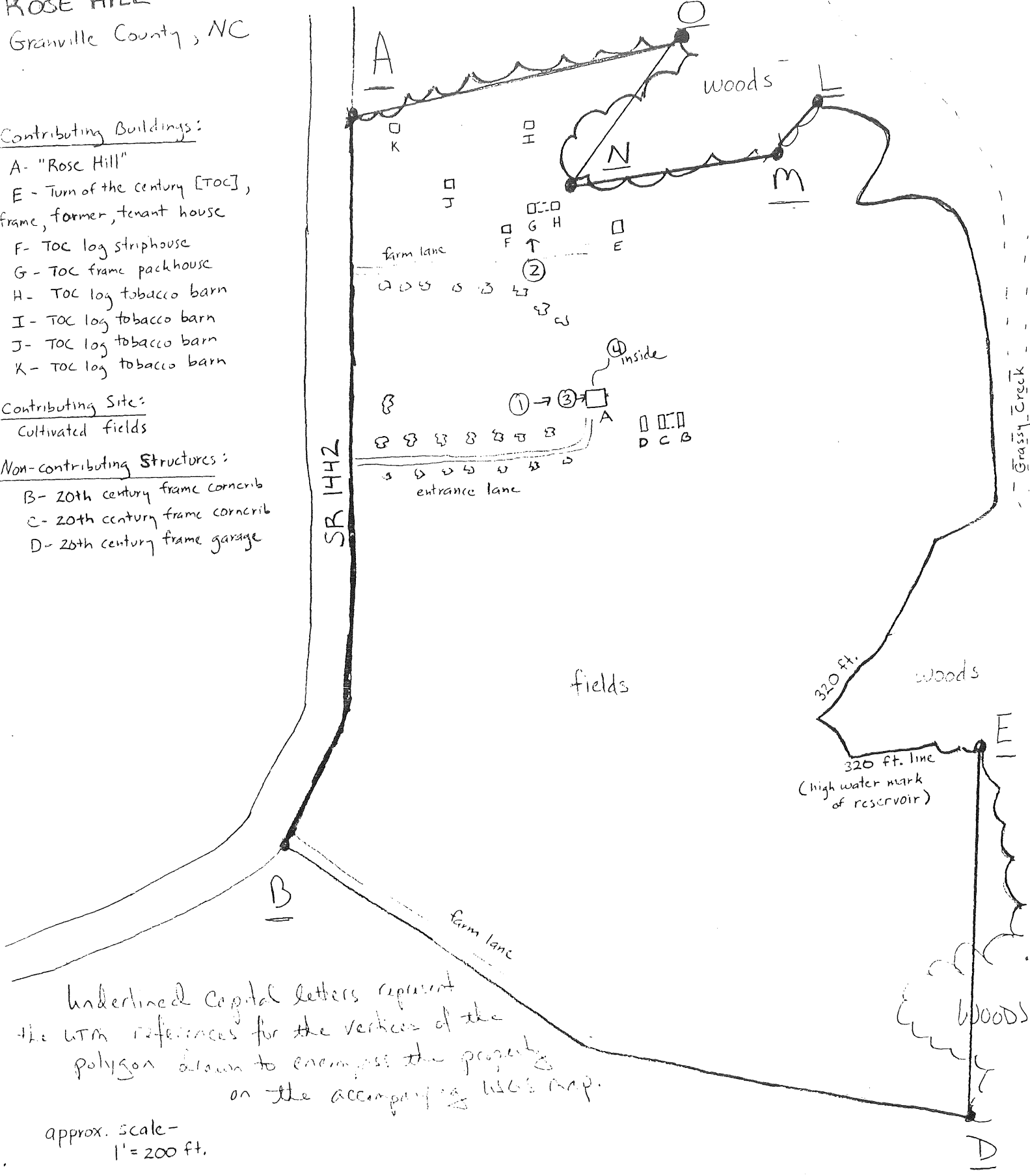
Contributing Buildings:

- A - "Rose Hill"
- E - Turn of the century [TOC],  
frame, former, tenant house
- F - TOC log striphouse
- G - TOC frame packhouse
- H - TOC log tobacco barn
- I - TOC log tobacco barn
- J - TOC log tobacco barn
- K - TOC log tobacco barn

Contributing Site:  
Cultivated fields

Non-contributing Structures:

- B - 20th century frame cornerib
- C - 20th century frame cornerib
- D - 20th century frame garage



Underlined Capital letters represent  
the UTM references for the vertices of the  
polygon drawn to encompass the property  
on the accompanying USGS map.

approx. scale -  
1" = 200 ft.

approx. 50 acres



drawn by Marvin A. Brown,  
February, 1957

